absolutely and always to be looked after by the Textile Ministry, which is least bothered about this industry.

Sir, with these words, I thank you very much.

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI (West Bengal): I associate myself.

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): I too associate myself.

Impact of Destruction of Coconut Cultivation

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the sad plight of the coconut cultivators in Kerala. Sir, if the present trend is allowed to continue, the entire coconut cultivation in Kerala will face a total extinction. I am sure, the House is well aware of the importance of coconut cultivation in Kerala. Almost the entire population in Kerala is, in one way or the other, intimately connected with coconut cultivation. Many industries are based on coconut cultivation.

Now, half of the coconut cultivation is affected by the root wilt disease. A new type of caterpillar is coming and attacking the entire coconut cultivation in Kerala. The Government of Kerala is doing all that is possible, within its limits. That is not sufficient to meet the present situation. The Central Government should come forward in intensifying the efforts on research and also in giving financial assistance to the peasants who are affected by the pests. Thank you.

SHRI M.J. VARKEY MATTATHIL (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with what has been said by my friend, Shri Pillai. Thank you.

श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

श्री सभापति: किस बात पर है?

श्री राघवजी: सभापति जी, मैंने दिनांक 22 अक्तूबर 99 को एक विशेष उल्लेख का नोटिस दिया था जो मेरी दृष्टि से लोक महत्व का विषय था। आप उसे स्वीकार नहीं करें, मुझे कोई शिकायत नहीं है। लेकिन पांच दिन हो गये आज दिन तक न तो मुझे यह सूचना मिली है कि यह स्थगित हो गया है और न यह सूचना मिली है कि वह अस्वीकार हुआ है। पहले ऐसी सूचना मिलती रही है। लेकिन आज तक मुझे पता नहीं है। मैं रोज़ आ कर देखता हूं लेकिन मेरा नाम होता नहीं है। मुझे कम से कम यह मालूम तो पड़ना चाहिये कि अस्वीकार हुआ है। पहले ऐसा होता रहा है। ऐसी परिपाटी है लेकिन इस बार यह परिपाटी नहीं अपनाई गई। इसका मुझे खेद है।

श्री सभापति: अस्वीकार नहीं होता है, समय की बात होती है।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also here, I would like to make a submission for the

consideration of the House. When we met in the Business Advisory Committee, we had allocated one hour each to three pieces of legislation. Today, being the last day of the Session, we also have two important discussions, which have been raised by the Private Members. If my colleagues agree, we can pass these Bills without much discussion. These are Bills to replace to Ordinances which have already been in operation and the very nature of these Bills is, innocuous; one is already being replaced after its effect is over, and the other two Bills are just to recoup the Contingency Fund of India and another to give tax exemption for the contributions made towards the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. So, the time, which will be saved on these three Bills, could be allotted to two other important discussions—one is on diesel price hike and the other is on cyclone. By doing, so, I think, we can do justice to these two important discussions, because new Members have been sworn in and they are interested in taking part in these discussions. This is my submission for your consideration and for the consideration of the Leader of the House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I would also be grateful if the three Bills are passed without any discussion because there are two important discussions; one is on flood situation and the other is on diesel price hike. Now, again, we have the same—flood—situation in Orissa and many hon. Members would like to take part in the discussion. Then, we have a discussion on the diesel price hike. Apart from these two discussions, there are two important statements to be made by the Minister of External Affairs. So, I would really be grateful to the House if it accepts and passes these three Bills without any discussion.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, one more suggestion for the consideration of the House. There are also two statements.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes. We will take them up.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Can we take them up first; and, then can we take up the discussion on flood situation and diesel price hike?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You, please, take them up later on. Let us have the discussion on flood situation and diesel price hike first.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Yashwant Sinha.

THE INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move: